

Senate Resolution 563

By: Senators Thompson of the 33rd, Stoner of the 6th, Wiles of the 37th, Rogers of the 21st and Hill of the 32nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Senate Study Committee on Drug Courts and Addictive Drugs; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, drug addiction is a growing problem in today's society and threatens to tear
4 apart families and entire communities; and

5 WHEREAS, abuse of addictive drugs can lead to health issues, overdose, and death for the
6 user, while the community in which addicts live suffer from increased health problems, high
7 crime rates, and unemployment; and

8 WHEREAS, drug courts divert nonviolent substance abuse offenders from jail and provide
9 them with the opportunity to obtain much-needed substance abuse treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, drug courts have been shown to reduce the risk of repeat offenses and help
11 break the cycle of alcohol and drug use, criminal behavior, and incarceration; and

12 WHEREAS, national research has shown that drug courts reduce crime by lowering rearrest
13 and conviction rates, improving substance abuse treatment outcomes, providing governments
14 with cost savings, and reuniting families; and

15 WHEREAS, research is needed to determine if Georgia's drug courts have had the same
16 success as those in other states and whether funding to these programs should be increased
17 or decreased; and

18 WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the issues and facts relating to drug addiction in the
19 State of Georgia and the effectiveness of Georgia's drug courts is needed to protect the health
20 of the state's citizens.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
22 Study Committee on Drug Courts and Addictive Drugs to be composed of five members to
23 be appointed by the President of the Senate who shall designate one member as chairperson.
24 The chairperson shall call all meetings of the committee.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the effect
26 addictive drugs have upon the families and economic health of Georgia's communities and
27 the effectiveness of Georgia's Drug Courts in decreasing repeat criminal offenses of those
28 individuals addicted to drugs. Furthermore, the committee shall recommend any action or
29 legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
30 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
31 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
32 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
33 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
34 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
35 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
36 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
37 appropriated to the Senate. In the event the committee makes a report of its findings and
38 recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, if any, such report shall be
39 made on or before December 31, 2009. The committee shall stand abolished on December
40 31, 2009.